



## County Budget Builds For Future

### *Fiscal Stability Promoted; Reserve Grows*



### *Fire Season Is Here - So Is New Equipment*

A fire season that represents one of the most dangerous in years - due to minimal rainfall - has arrived in San Diego County. To gear up, the County of San Diego has purchased more than \$4 million in new firefighting equipment that will allow rural agencies to respond quickly to any threat.

Allocating funds from the General Fund, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of nine new fire engines and seven water trucks. Five engines and four of the water trucks are already in service.



Building upon its strong economic growth and frugal budgeting, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors is set to adopt a budget of \$4.68 billion for fiscal year 2007-08 that strengthens public protection and provides an increase in popular services such as library and park hours.

Most important, however, is the proposed budget, which will undergo public hearings prior to its approval in mid-June, protects against future economic downturn by setting aside 17 percent of budgeted general-purpose revenues. This emergency fund contains \$760 million and marks an 180-degree turnabout when this county was in debt and saw Wall Street downgrade its bond rating to a dismal "Baa1."

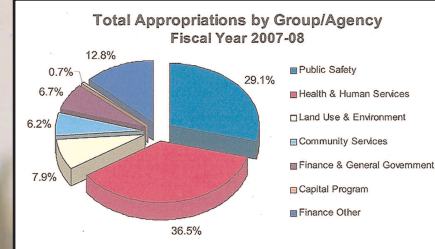
This Board of Supervisors restored confidence in county government while improving efficiency. In the process, costs were reduced.

### Doing More With Less

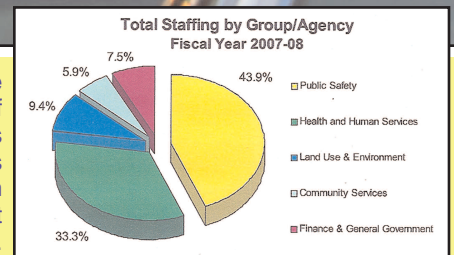
The 2007-08 budget contains funding for 17,027 staff years, about 1,000 *less* than the 1997 budget even though San Diego County has gained a half-million additional residents. This is just one example of the fiscal discipline that has earned San Diego County nationwide recognition.

The 2007-08 draft operational plan keeps public safety as its top priority. Public safety represents just under 44 percent of the staff budgeted. The next largest - Health & Human Services - is 33.3 percent.

The Sheriff's Department receives a 3.5 percent increase in funding to \$271 million. All efforts are being undertaken to fill the approximate 270 open but funded deputy



Charts illustrate how County of San Diego plans on spending its \$4.68 billion budget next fiscal year.



positions. The District Attorney's Office will be able to fill the 63 positions left open since 2003 when the state reduced the amount of funding it gave counties for prosecutors. Its budget for FY 2007-08 is \$138.6 million.

Other agencies that will see improved funding include Health & Human Services, where a 6 percent hike raises the budget to \$1.7 billion; and parks and recreation, where a 10 percent increase raises the budget to \$33.8 million.

### Funding Services

The County of San Diego gets the largest share of its revenue from the State of California to pay for mandated programs passed by the Legislature. This amounts to 26.2 percent of the \$4.68 billion. The next major revenue source is property and other taxes, which accounts for 20.4 percent. Reimbursements from the federal government and/or other governmental agencies account for 12.1 percent and charges for fees and services generate 16.9 percent of the budget. It must be noted that such fees are designed to be "revenue neutral" - equal

## AROUND THE THIRD DISTRICT

### News of Note

#### County Honored For Reducing Costs Of Maintaining Vehicles

**T**he County of San Diego, continuing its innovative efforts to contain expenses, has been honored for efficiency in managing its fleet of vehicles. John Clements is the 2007 public sector "Fleet Manager of the Year" as chosen by Government Fleet magazine.

Clements gained the honor for his hands-on administration of more than 3,800 vehicles, including sheriff patrol cars, fire vehicles and public works trucks. Clements saved taxpayers \$8.5 million while maintaining 27 percent more vehicles with 44 percent less employees.

#### Seminar For Female Sheriff Deputies

Women interested in a career as a deputy sheriff should attend a free seminar at 6 p.m. June 19 at the Sheriff Administration Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court in Kearny Mesa. For reservations or information, contact Deputy Laura Legler at (858) 974-2336 or [laura.legler@sdsheriff.org](mailto:laura.legler@sdsheriff.org).

#### Check Your Tomatoes For New Virus

The Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus may be infecting your plants. The virus has been found in Imperial Valley and county agricultural officials recommend checking your tomato bushes, along with any pepper and petunia plants. The virus is spread by whitefly, which is common in San Diego County. For more information, call (858) 694-2860 or visit the websites at [www.sdcawn.org](http://www.sdcawn.org) or [www.sdcfha.org](http://www.sdcfha.org).



#### Salmonella Food Alert Is Issued

County health authorities are warning residents of a possible outbreak of *Salmonella* that has been found in products sold under the Sesame Tahini product line. The contaminated products are being voluntarily recalled. *Salmonella* can cause serious and even fatal infections in the young, the elderly and those with weakened immune systems. Tahini is made from sesame seeds and oil and is found in health food stores. More info is available at [www.sdcdeh.org/fhd/what's\\_new.html](http://www.sdcdeh.org/fhd/what's_new.html).



Joining Supervisor Slater-Price for the ceremony recognizing American Wetlands Month organizations were (from left): Megan Johnson of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, Doug Gibson of the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, Mary Loquvam of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, Tershia d'Elgin of Groundwork Chollas Creek and Chris Redfern of the San Diego Audubon Society.

## Wetland Grants Assist Third District Projects

**G**rants awarded by the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project will allow non-profit groups to continue improving and enhancing watershed projects in the Third District. Four projects will be funded in 2007. The grants, totaling \$89,000, will be used to restore and enhance wetlands along the coast and in coastal canyons.

Clean water, restored beaches and sand replenishment are part of a delicate ecosystem. In fact, restoration and protection of streams, rivers and wetlands have a dramatic effect on our entire coastline, from the South Bay to North County. Coastal restoration north of beaches in La Jolla and Pacific Beach has an impact on both shorelines. The coastal beaches in the Third District will receive the benefits of efficient sand replenishment, less pollution, and better nurseries for fish and plant life.

Other groups in the Third District to benefit include:

- **San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy** for its innovative program, "*Changing Historical Perspectives through Education and Restoration*."

- **San Diego Audubon Society** for

"*Mangrove Removal at the Northern Wildlife Preserve*."

Other grants went to Groundwork Chollas for its "City & Streams" program and the International Community Foundation, which protects the Tijuana River Estuary through an active sediment-control program.

Since 2001 San Diego County has received \$400,000 to fund 21 projects. Since the program's inception, more than \$21 million has been allocated to local projects.

"With an estimated 90 percent of Southern California wetlands lost to urbanization, projects like these protect a vital link between land and sea," said Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, who is chairwoman of the project's Public Advisory Committee. "Wetlands and open space enhance our quality-of-life, add value to our homes, and provide buffers between our communities. It is important that we protect these important assets."

For the past 10 years, the Wetlands Recovery Project has acquired 6,500 acres, and restored or enhanced 800 acres of wetlands.



## AROUND THE THIRD DISTRICT

# Non-Profits Serve Our Communities

**I**mproving the quality-of-life for residents of the Third District takes on myriad forms. Public safety, protecting the public health, environmental protection, managing a fiscally sound government, and providing top-notch parks, libraries and roads immediately come to mind. But there are non-profits in the region that do a great job in other areas. The county works with many non-profits to provide service to the public.

Through the awarding of community project grants, organizations can help children enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle, introduce the arts to youth, and show humanity to those who could use a touch of friendship. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved 11 grants for the Third District, assisting various organizations from Escondido south to San Diego and west to Encinitas.

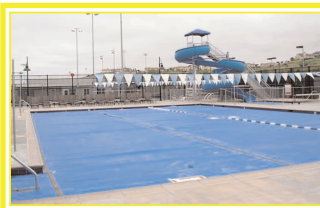
Well-balanced children are important to all of us. Youth sports not only promote a healthy lifestyle but teach children teamwork and lasting relationships. And it's just plain fun!

The first grant was a home-run pitch and **San Dieguito Youth Softball** in Encinitas is the winner, as the non-profit girls fast-pitch softball league received a \$6,000 grant that will be used to purchase uniforms and equipment.

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price took the lead in the countywide effort to combat childhood obesity and improve nutritional habits in both our youth and in adults. This grant is a natural off-shoot of that effort.

"We are very appreciative of Supervisor Slater-Price's commitment to youth sports and her generous grant to San Dieguito Youth Softball," said league President Tom Delaney. "This grant will allow our league to acquire new equipment while ensuring that all players, regardless of their economic situation, get to enjoy playing softball."

Over in Escondido, summers will be cooler for children as a \$100,000 grant to



Kids in Escondido will soon have a pool like this to enjoy at the local Boys & Girls Club.

the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Diego that will be used to install a swimming pool at the Escondido branch. The grant requires a match by the club. It dedicates \$50,000 toward the pool and \$50,000 to purchase solar equipment to heat the pool.

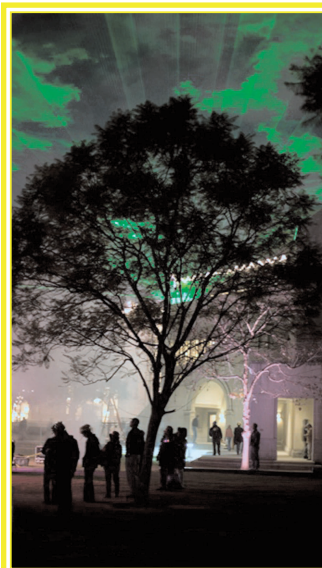
The Boys and Girls Clubs provide a welcome environment for children, especially those from single-parent homes. **"It is an honor to assist the club in its communitywide effort to build a pool in Escondido,"** said Supervisor Slater-Price. **"I look forward to a future summer day**

**when we will hear from the pool the laughter of children, who in the process of having fun are improving their health and cardiovascular systems."**

Taking care of the pet population is important, too. Overpopulation of domestic animals is more than a societal outrage – taxpayers are saddled with the expense of capture, care and treatment of unwanted or abandoned dogs and cats. To help alleviate this crisis, the supervisor awarded an \$11,500 grant to La Jolla-based **SNAP** – Spray and Neuter Assistance Program – that will be used to

purchase surgical instruments and supplies for the Neuter Scooter II, a mobile vet clinic.

Sad to report, too many neglected or abandoned animals are having too many litters, resulting in an explosion of dogs and cats that often overwhelm the available shelter network. SNAP runs an innovative program that brings spaying and neutering services to communities where reasonable pet owners help reduce the pressure of pet overpopulation. This mobile clinic will serve the entire region.



First Night in Escondido is a visual cornucopia that stresses fun and family.

## Lagoon Center Moves Forward A Giant Step!

**B**ids are now being solicited to construct the new San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center in Cardiff-by-the-Sea.

Based upon Supervisor Pam Slater-Price's proposal, the center, using green building strategies and materials, will be a two-story structure offering state-of-the-art exhibits showcasing the unique ecology and history of the lagoon. The \$4.75 million project has been a long-awaited dream of mine for the public's use and enjoyment. An opening is predicted for December 2008.

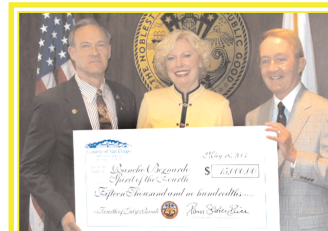
The 4,230-square-foot center promotes the latest in "green" construction, in which natural and recycled materials are used to reduce energy consumption and the impact to the environment.

San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve offers more than 1,000 acres of sensitive coastal habitat and 7 miles of hiking trails.

Extending a helping hand to those who want to help themselves is important. **North County Serenity House** will receive \$25,000 as part of a matching grant for the construction of its Serenity Village, a recovery center for female alcoholics. Started in 1966, Serenity House today provides housing for 200 women and children, including a 100-bed residential facility and three recovery homes. Serenity Village is a \$3 million project.

For more family fun, don't forget **Spirit of the Fourth** in Rancho Bernardo. This family activity will receive \$15,000 to offset costs to stage activities highlighting this year's Independence Day celebration.

The grant will be used to cover costs associated with the production and dis-



Rancho Bernardo will again celebrate the "Spirit of the Fourth" as I award a grant to Tom Richards (left) and Marty Judge.

## AROUND THE THIRD DISTRICT

### GRANTS

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tribution of mailers and community awareness materials.

In Pacific Beach you can enjoy a free Summer Concert Series at Kate Sessions Park, coordinated by the **Pacific Beach Town Council**. Supervisor Slater-Price directed Community Projects funds toward this event (\$3,000) to support this great community activity. The park gets a good crowd for the concerts and picnics are a part of the fun.

Speaking of family fun, there is no better way to bring in a New Year than to be with family and friends in a safe, non-alcohol environment. **First Night Escondido** is such an event, and the supervisor assisted the 2008 celebration through a \$5,000 grant. First Night Escondido features live music, street performers, booths, games, arts and crafts, culinary delights and fireworks.

**“New Year’s Eve should be a time of celebration, not intoxication,”** said Supervisor Slater-Price. **“Escondido keeps this focus front and center; ensuring families have an enjoyable night out.”**

“It is my honor to be able to assist many community activities. The volunteers who give so much of their time on these events so that so others can enjoy them are to be



**Smiles greet the New Year at Escondido's First Night celebration.**

commended.”

Other grants were awarded to:

- **San Diego County Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse** (\$2,800) to underwrite costs of hosting its annual scholarship luncheon, which is open to the public. CALA is a watchdog of the legal system and educates citizens to the financial cost of lawsuit abuse.

- **Aguinaldo Foundation** (\$5,000) to offset costs of staging its second Philippine Festival in Mira Mesa this June. The festival serves as a fund-raiser for the non-profit effort to build a museum-cultural center marking the Philippine culture in San Diego County.

- **San Diego Council of the Navy**

League (\$5,000) to offset costs of its breakfast series.

- **A Reason to Survive ARTS** (\$10,000) that will go toward providing free creative arts programs to approximately 3,500 children who all face some form of adversity – abuse and neglect, homelessness, domestic violence, illness.

Activities are conducted at such locations as Children’s Hospital, Ronald McDonald House, the Polinsky Children’s Center, Casa de Amparo, Camp Pendleton and MCAS Miramar.

### BUDGET

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to the cost of service provided.

Maintaining quality services that enhance the quality-of-life of all residents is the mission of this Board of Supervisors. Not every request can or will be funded. There is no pot full of gold waiting at the end of the rainbow. This county is a leader because it carefully monitors its finances and encourages its managers and employees to be innovative, to find ways to improve service so that taxpayers - you and I - truly believe each and every dollar spent is done so with scrutiny and necessity.

## The Staff of Supervisor Pam Slater-Price

• John Weil	.....Chief of Staff
• Sachiko Kohatsu	.....Land Use
• Jim Gonsalves	.....Housing
• Erika Black	.....Health & Human Services
• Mark Olson	.....Budget & Finance
• Anne-Marie Jewel	.....Scheduling
• Frances Porter	.....Receptionist
• Dennis C. Lhota	.....Newsletters

Contact us at:	(619) 531-5533 (800) 852-7334
Write us at:	1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335 San Diego, CA 92101
Website:	www.pamslater.com
E-mail:	pam.slater@sdcounty.ca.gov
E-Slate:	E-Slate_editor@roadrunner.com

County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price  
District Three  
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335  
San Diego, CA 92101  
www.pamslater.com